

REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 8, 2000 with claims 1-17. Claim 3 was canceled in an Amendment filed June 10, 2004. Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 8 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. This claim has been rewritten in independent form, and is believed to be allowable.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly incomplete for omitting structural cooperative relationships regarding the multiplexer. Applicant respectfully traverses, and believes that the claims in their previous form recited sufficient structural relationship to comply with the statute. Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant has amended claims 6 and 7 in a manner which is believed to address the concerns raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, the §112 rejection should be withdrawn.

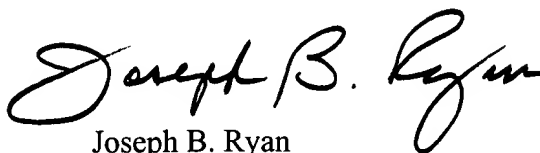
Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,907,498 (hereinafter "Rim"). Applicant respectfully traverses, on the ground that the Rim reference fails to meet each and every limitation of claims 1, 2 and 4-17. Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims 1, 16 and 17 to specify that the overflow flag is generated utilizing a transmit signal and a generate signal of the adder. Also, the limitation relating to generation of the overflow flag "substantially in parallel with" one or more other signals has been deleted from each of these claims.

An illustrative example of an arrangement of the type claimed in one or more of claims 1, 16 and 17 as amended is shown in FIG. 2 of the drawings of the present application, and described in the specification at page 5, line 21, to page 7, line 14. The Rim reference cited by the Examiner does not generate an overflow flag utilizing a transmit signal and a generate signal as claimed. The §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 10-17 should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rim in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,257,218 (hereinafter "Poon"). However, the Poon reference fails to supplement the fundamental deficiency of Rim as applied to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9, which depends from claim 1, is believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, pending claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ryan" clearly legible.

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